



SPECTACULAR: Russell Sheridan with his creation, Ruby Summer. Picture: PAUL WEBSTER.

Blazing finale to aqua fun weekend

THE Aqua Spectacular will end in a blaze of glory when the boat Ruby Summer sails down the estuary complete with flying banners and snarling gargoyles.

Ruby Summer looks like she sailed out of ancient mythology and she will be set on fire in the estuary as a festival finale.

"The boat is a celebration, a fanfare, and the fire sculpture will add to the air of excitement," creator Russell Sheridan said.

Mr Sheridan has been working on the sculpture with local artists Alex Hayes, Mike Bandurski and Geoff Lummis for five weeks and he can't wait to see all that effort go up in smoke.

"I like to see it there flapping away in the front yard but it will be great to see it burn," he said.

Mr Sheridan describes the 15-metre boat as a cacophony of references to mythology, with its Persian hull, bold figurehead and three towers like cathedral spires.

"We were trying to think of a way to develop something with a bit of mythology about it," he said.